XIV. *An Account of a Fiſh from* Batavia, *called* Jaculator: *In a Letter to Mr.* Peter Collinſon, *F. R. S. from* John Albert Schloſſer, *M. D. F. R. S.*

Dear Sir, Amſterdam, 22d Feb. 1763.

Read March 15, 1764.

HAVING lately received from Mr. Hommel, governor of the hoſpital at Batavia, many uncommon fiſhes, well preſerved, amongſt them is one as curious for it's ſhape, as for it's extraordinary manner of obtaining it's food. It is new to me, and, I believe, hath never been obſerved by any writer on natural hiſtory. [Vide Tab. X.]

I requeſt the favour, that you will preſent this rare fiſh to the Royal Society, as a ſmall, but ſincere proof of the gratitude and eſteem, which I really have for that reſpectable, learned body.

Governor Hommel gives the following account of the Jaculator or ſhooting fiſh, a name alluding to it's nature. It frequents the ſhores and ſides of the ſea and rivers, in ſearch of food. When it ſpies a fly ſitting on the plants, that grow in ſhallow water, it ſwims on to the diſtance of four, five, or ſix feet, and then, with a ſurprizing dexterity, it ejects out of it's tubular-mouth a ſingle drop of water, which never fails ſtriking the fly into the ſea, where it ſoon becomes it's prey.

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The relation of this uncommon action of this cunning fiſh raiſed the governor's curioſity; though it came well atteſted, yet he was determined, if poſſible, to be convinced of the truth, by ocular demonſtration.

For that purpoſe, he ordered a large wide tun to be filled with ſea-water; then had ſome of theſe fiſh caught, and put into it, which was changed every other day. In a while, they ſeemed reconciled to their confinement; then he determined to try the experiment.

A ſlender ſtick, with a fly pinned on at it's end, was placed in ſuch a direction, on the ſide of the veſſel, as the fiſh could ſtrike it.

It was with inexpreſſible delight, that he daily ſaw theſe fiſh exerciſing their ſkill in ſhooting at the fly, with an amazing velocity, and never miſſed the mark.

In looking over that noble work of the Muſeum of the king of Sweden, printed anno 1754, I met with this Jaculator, well engraven, and deſcribed, by the learned Baron Linnæus, under the title of Chætodon, pag. 61, plate 33.

Baron Linnæus's Deſcription.

Acanthopterygii-chætodon.

Chætodon roſtratum, pinna dorſali poſtice macula fuſca.

Corpus ovatum, compreſſum; faſcia griſea perpendicularis ſecat caput per oculos. Faſcia griſea perpendicularis ab initio pinnæ dorſalis deſcendit ante pectorales ad ventrales. Faſcia griſea perpendicularis in

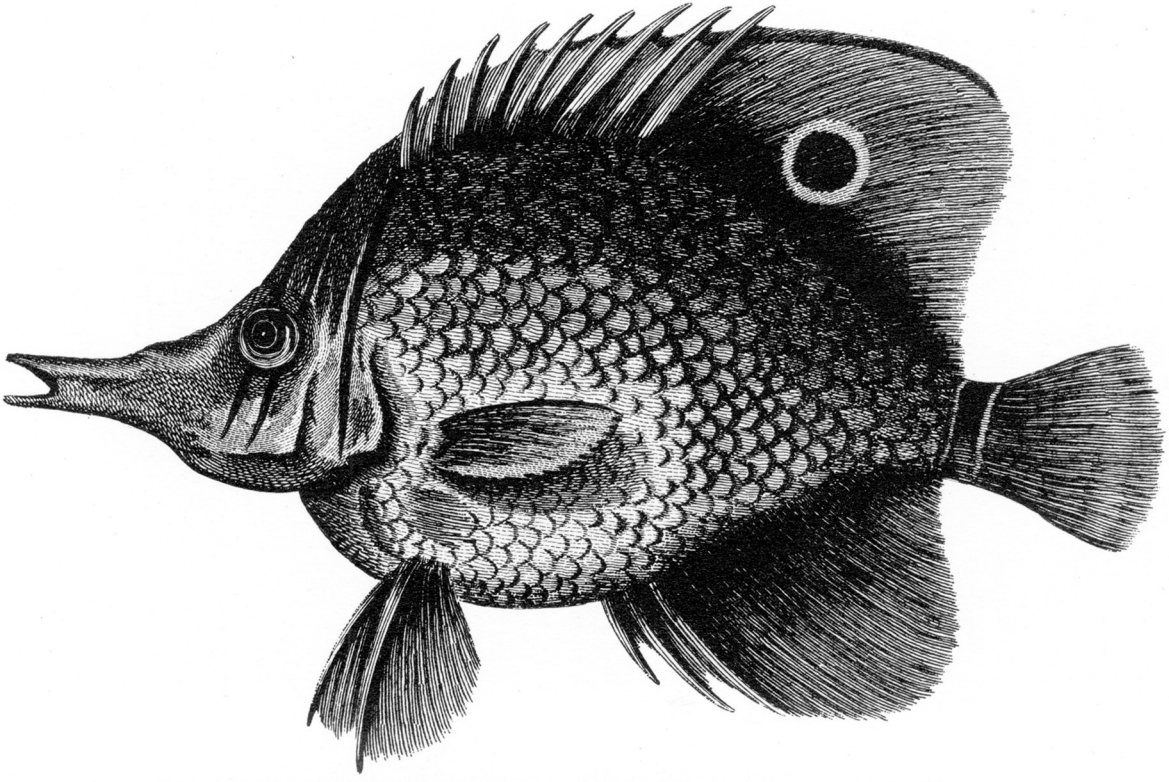
medio piſce. Faſcia fuſca ſaturatior cingit caudam ante radios. Macula fuſca orbicularis in medio pinnæ dorſalis ubi mutica.

Caput roſtro elongato, fere ut in ſyngnathis, dentes in maxillis minimi. Narium foramina utrinque 2 ante oculos, membranæ branchioſtegæ oſſicula 5. Opercula branchiarum ſquamis tecta, ut in reliquis congeneribus. Pinnæ dorſi et ani æquales, valde tranſverſæ, et lateribus ſquamis tectæ. Dorſalis radiis 9–31 primoribus mucronatis, poſterioribus 31 mollibus, longioribus. Pectorales radiis 14. Ventrales radiis 6 mollibus, excepto primo ſpinoſo; eorum ſecundus reliquis longior. Ani radiis 3–20 poſterioribus 20 longioribus, mollibus; primis 3 ſpinoſis, caudæ radiis 14, æqualibus; parva

Accedit proxime ad LABRUM roſtro reflexo faſciis lateralibus tribus fuſcis. Amœn. Acad. 1. p. 313.

XIV. *An Account of the Poliſh Cochineal: In a Letter to Mr.* Henry Baker, *F.R.S. from Dr.* Wolfe, *of* Warſaw.

Warſaw, April 4, 1763.

Read March 29, 1764.

COCCI Polonici ſunt ova, vel potius pupæ inſecti nondum ſatis cogniti, quæ ad radices variarum plantarum adhærent, et verſus finem Julii ab evulſis radicibus ope cultri abraduntur et colliguntur. Plantæ illæ ſunt valde variæ, nec quotannis in una eademque ſpecie reperiuntur